

**Memorandum
of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER)
March 30-31, 1998
Doubletree Hotel
Rockville, MD**

Overview:

A joint meeting of the Russian and U.S. Executive Committee (EC) of the JCCRER was held in Rockville, MD, on March 30-31, 1998. During this meeting of the EC, a number of topics were discussed, including charges to the EC following the Third JCCRER Meeting (April 1997), status of ongoing activities, new initiatives, extension of the JCCRER Agreement, and coordination with non-JCCRER parties conducting research in the Southern Urals.

The Russian side was represented by:

EC Members:

Prof. Leonid A. Bolshov - Director, Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute (IBRAE), Russian Co-Chair;

Dr. Mikhail F. Kisselev - Deputy Director, MEDBIOEXTREM Federal Directorate, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation; and

Dr. Alexandr P. Panfilov - Division Head, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy.

Other Participants:

Mr. Andrey A. Koptelov - Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute (IBRAE);

Dr. Oleg A. Pavlovski - Russian SRG Coordinator, Russian National Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute (IBRAE);

Mr. Sergey A. Romanov - Director, Branch Number One of the Institute of Biophysics;

Dr. Valentin Khokhryakov - Project 2.1 Principal Investigator and Project 2.4 Co-Principal Investigator, Branch Number One of the Institute of Biophysics;

Dr. Evgenti K. Vastlenko - Project 2.4 Co-Principal Investigator, MAYAK Production Association;

Ms. Yekaterina Peshkova - MAYAK Production Association.

The American side was represented by:

Executive Committee Members:

Mr. Frank C. Hawkins - Director of the Office of International Health Programs, Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Co-Chair;

Dr. Shlomo S. Yaniv - Senior Technical Advisor, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC);

Dr. Peter Henry - Director, Office of Europe and the NIS, OIRH-OS, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS);

Dr. Jerome Puskin - Team Leader, Center for Risk Modeling and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);

Dr. John Ainsworth - Scientific Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI).

Other Participants:

Mr. Edward Podolak - Deputy Director of the Office of International Health Programs, DOE

Ms. Eleanor (Elly) Melamed - Director of the Office of Records, Research, Data and Access, DOE;

Dr. Mohandas Bhat - Senior Science Advisor, Office of International Health Programs, DOE;

Ms. Elizabeth (Tibby) White - ICCRER Program Manager, Office of International Health Programs, DOE

Ms. Diana Clark - International Attorney, Office of General Counsel, DOE

Ms. Cynthia G. Jones - Senior Level Advisor for Health Physics, U.S. NRC

Dr. Vince Holahan - Senior Health Physicist, U.S. NRC

Dr. Clatr Blong - Office of International Programs, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

Dr. Joseph Himes - U.S. NRC;

Dr. Ihor Husar - FEMA;

Dr. Dave Layton - Office of Environmental Programs, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL);

Dr. Joseph Shinn - Office of Environmental Programs, LLNL;

Dr. Richard Loftis - Office of the Director, AFRL.

Charges Following the April 1997 JCCRER Meeting:

a) Efforts on Direction 3.

At the Third JCCRER Meeting (April 1997), the EC committed to work together to identify a new American lead agency for Direction 3, to issue an interim report on the status of this initiative (issued in February 1998), and to report on progress at the Fourth JCCRER Meeting (May 1998) in Moscow. During the March 30, 1998 EC meeting, Mr. Podolak reported that a Direction 3 meeting held that morning with representatives from various U.S. agencies (EPA, FEMA, NRC, DOE) and Russian ministries (OBRAH, MEDBIOEXTREM, MINATOM) had generated interest on the U.S. side and that related working meetings would continue on March 31 and April 1, 1998. Prof. Bolshov emphasized that the original Direction 3 goals (drafted at the first meeting of the JCCRER) can be modified, if necessary, to better reflect the current interests and needs of participating organizations. A discussion was then held of possible U.S.-Russian collaboration in emergency response efforts, including participation in an emergency response exercise in Davenport, Iowa in fall 1998, as well as a follow-on table top exercise.

b) Data Access.

Following the Third JCCRER Meeting (April 1997), at which the JCCRER Co-Chairs signed an annex to the Memorandum of Meeting entitled, "Access to Primary Data Required for the Conduct of Scientific Studies Under the JCCRER Agreement," EC members were charged to work with principal investigators and institute directors to develop project-specific access to data agreements. The status and content of these agreements were discussed in a pre-meeting to the January 1998 EC Meeting. At this pre-meeting, Russian and U.S. participants jointly developed general provisions for data access, to apply to all project-specific agreements. These general provisions were discussed at the January EC meeting, approved at the March EC meeting, and signed by Drs. Moskvichov and Egorov on behalf of the Russian JCCRER and by Dr. Seligman on behalf of the U.S. JCCRER. It was agreed that the project-specific data access agreements should be completed prior to the May JCCRER meeting.

c) Public Involvement Activities.

Dr. Bhat shared a proposed strategy and timeline (developed by Dr. Lubov Anissimova and the members of the American expert group) to implement the public involvement path forward signed by JCCRER Co-Chairs in April 1997. It was suggested that more coordination is needed on the Russian side prior to initiating public involvement activities. Proposed activities include: establishing a Russian expert group, holding a spring teleconference of the U.S. and Russian expert group members, establishing a working committee to represent the Southern Urals region, and conducting a meeting in Chelyabinsk in summer 1998.

Items for EC Information:**a) Update on Ongoing Projects:**

Ms. White and Dr. Kisselev reported that the joint DOE-Russian funded long-term projects initiated in April 1997, "Development of an Improved Dosimetry System for Population Dosimetry" (project 1.1), "Physical Preservation of Existing Data" (project 1.2a), "Stochastic Effects of Environmental Radiation Exposure in Populations Living Near the Mayak Industrial Association" (project 1.2b), "Metabolism and Dosimetry of Plutonium Industrial Compounds" (project 2.1), and "Risk Estimation of Stochastic Effects of Occupational Radiation Exposure" (project 2.2), were progressing smoothly for the most part. They did, however, discuss shared concerns regarding one component of project 1.1: the Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) work. Ms. White reported that DOE is particularly concerned about the lack of a standardized methodology for EPR and the poor quality of teeth used for the EPR effort. It was agreed that representatives from the Russian and American funding agencies and scientific institutions would continue to gather information, that the EPR issues would be discussed at the April Scientific Review Group (SRG) Meeting, and that a final decision on how to proceed would be made prior to the May JCCRER meeting. Ms. White stated that project 1.2b, which was initially funded for one-year only, will be reviewed in April 1998 for consideration of continued funding.

Ms. White and Drs. Panfilov and Vasilenko reported that "Source Term Determination" (project 1.3) supporting project 1.1 is progressing smoothly.

Dr. Yaniv reported that NRC-supported project "Deterministic Effects of Occupational Exposure" (project 2.3), which was initiated in January 1998, is also progressing smoothly.

Ms. Melamed reported that the microfilming effort was progressing on schedule, with 247 roles of film taken to date. She and Dr. Panfilov stated that the use of the ISTC as a vehicle for the transfer of funds and equipment had proven effective for the microfilming effort.

b) Status of and Plans for "Development of An Improved Dosimetry System for Workers of the MAYAK Production Association" (Project 2.4): Mr. Hawkins reported that there has been a change in the composition of the American team for project 2.4 and that this change will not affect the Russian team's funding. He reminded EC members of a project planning meeting scheduled for April 2 and 3 to define necessary expertise and tasks to be performed by the new American scientific team to complement the work ongoing by the Russians.

c) Progress of Communications Upgrade.

Professor Bolshov reported on the status of the communications upgrade, funded by the Department of Energy and managed by the Nuclear Safety Institute, stating that all Russian EC members now have necessary new computer equipment and working fax machines, as well as e-mail. He also reported that IDRAE has made progress in the development of a JCCRER home page. Prior to this EC meeting, Institute Directors had informed EC members that they

(the Institutes) have purchased, or will have soon purchased, all necessary new computer equipment and that the Urals Research Center for Radiation Medicine (URCRM) is moving forward with attaining internet access for principal investigators.

Items for EC Discussion:

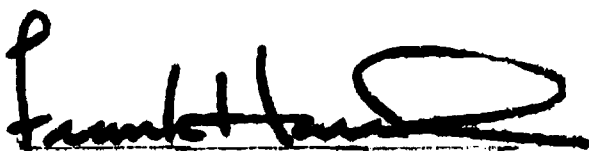
- a) *Extension of JCCRER Agreement* - Mr. Hawkins reported that it will be necessary to quickly move forward with extending the JCCRER Agreement, since the Agreement will expire in January 1999. He explained that: 1) extension will require Circular 175 authority on the U.S. side but should take no longer than 4-6 weeks if no changes are made; and 2) amendment (should any of the parties be interested in making changes) need not be done at the same time as extension, as paragraph 3 of Article VII of the existing agreement provides for amendments (at any time during the five year period) by "mutual agreement in writing." EC members present at the meeting unanimously agreed that the Agreement should be extended and that they would make that recommendation to the JCCRER at the Moscow meeting in May. It was agreed that the co-chairs would work with participating U.S. and Russian organizations to coordinate the extension.
- b) *Coordination with Non-JCCRER Organizations Conducting Work in the Southern Urals* - Mr. Hawkins led a discussion on draft principles for coordination with non U.S. and Russian governmental institutions conducting work in the Southern Urals. It was agreed that the proposed principles would be redrafted to permit further review and that an international scientific meeting would be held in the upcoming year to share information on radiation health effects research in the Southern Urals.
- c) *Upcoming Meetings.*
Joint Scientific Review Group Meeting in Chelyabinsk.
Ms. Melamed shared the tentative agenda for the April Scientific Review Group (SRG) Meeting, which will be a two-day scientific meeting to include JCCRER scientists as well as both the Department of Energy SRG and the Russian SRG.

JCCRER Meeting. The co-chairs reviewed the tentative agenda for the next JCCRER meeting, scheduled for May 19-22, 1998 in Moscow.
- d) *Contractual Issues* - Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Updegrave (of the DOE Budget Office) shared information on proposed collaborative JCCRER studies under consideration for DOE funding (beginning September 1998). Since the EC meeting, DOE has selected five proposals and will enter into negotiations with each of the institutions that submitted these proposals.

Action Items:

Russian and EC members agreed that:

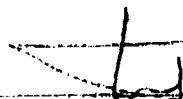
- a) Project-specific data access agreements shall be finalized prior to the May JCCRER meeting;
- b) The Russian EC shall work together, with assistance from the American EC, to initiate public involvement activities including establishment of a Russian expert group, a spring teleconference of the U.S. and Russian expert group members, development of a working committee to represent the Southern Urals region, and a meeting in Chelyabinsk in summer 1998;
- c) DOE and the Russian ministries shall make a determination on the EPR component of project 1.1 prior to the May JCCRER meeting.
- d) DOE and the Russian ministries shall make a determination about continuation of funding for project 1.2b prior to the May JCCRER meeting.
- e) The co-chairs shall convey to the JCCRER the EC recommendation to extend the "Agreement between the Government of Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America" for an additional period of five years and shall work with the participating U.S. and Russian organizations to coordinate the procedures necessary for the extension.
- f) Relating to coordination with non-JCCRER organizations conducting work in the Southern Urals, the co-chairs shall redraft the principles to permit further review by the EC and approval by the JCCRER. In addition, an international scientific meeting should be held within the upcoming year (possibly November 1998) to share information on radiation health effects research in the Southern Urals.
- g) DOE, in its negotiations with U.S. institutions selected to work jointly with representatives of the Southern Urals institute(s) in the conduct of new JCCRER studies, shall ensure that access to relevant American data will be provided to Russian project participants; DOE shall also ensure review of these new studies after the feasibility phase by both the Russian and DOE SRGs.



Frank Hawkins
U.S. Co-Chair

Date

5/19/98



Leonid Bolshov
Russian Co-Chair

Date

6/2/98